

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

1997 Turkey Hunting Season

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its July meeting does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules and regulations governing the hunting of wild turkeys. A synopsis of said rule follows, along with a complete copy of the regulations.

1997 Turkey Hunting Season Schedule

(Shooting Hours: One-half hour before
sunrise to one-half hour after sunset)

Daily limit one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys are illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzle loading shotguns, using shot not larger than Number 2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited.

Turkey baiting is hereby defined as the placing or distributing of harvested grain such as, but not limited to, corn, wheat or milo in such a manner so as to constitute a lure or attraction to any area where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A person shall be deemed to be hunting over bait if he is in the act of hunting (calling or in a blind) within 100 yards of a baited site. A baited site is only and specifically that immediate area where bait is deposited.

Any area where a hunter or hunters are found hunting or attempting to take turkeys over bait during the open turkey hunting season shall be immediately closed to hunting by posting signs circumscribing the bait site by a distance of 100 yards in all directions from the bait site. The signs shall read "Posted—Baited Area—Closed to Hunting". The area shall remain closed until all bait has been removed and for 15 days afterward.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of the birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

Beginning with the 1996 Turkey Season, all licensed turkey hunters including lifetime license holders will be required to have a Louisiana Wild Turkey stamp in their possession while turkey hunting, in addition to their basic and big game licenses. Money derived from stamps sales will be dedicated to projects that benefit wild turkeys in Louisiana.

Turkey Hunting Season—Open Only in the Following Areas:

Area A

March 22-April 27

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant, Livingston, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, Vernon, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of LA 26 from DeRidder to the jct. of LA. 104 and north of LA 104.

Ascension, Assumption, Iberville: North of LA 70 from LA 1 to the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, east of the east protection levee northward to I-10, south of I-10 from its jct. with the east protection levee at Ramah to LA 1, south and west of LA 1 from I-10 to LA 70. Also, that portion of Iberville Parish lying north of I-10 except see Sherburne for special season on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne's boundaries.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by LA 452 from Brouillette to LA 1, eastward to Simmesport, except that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by LA 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its jct. at Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its jct. with LA 451.

Beauregard: North of LA 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the jct. of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the jct. of U.S. 171 to Texas State line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula line, east and north of LA 126 and south and west of LA 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to LA 559 at Duty Ferry, north of LA 559 to LA 124, south and west of LA 124 from Duty Ferry to LA 8 at Harrisonburg and north of LA 8 to LA 126, north and east of LA 126. ALSO that portion of Catahoula listed below.

Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Richland and Tensas: East of U.S. 65 from the Arkansas line to U.S. 80, south of U.S. 80 westward to LA 17, east of LA 17 and LA 15 from Delhi to Winnsboro to Clayton; west of U.S. 65 from Clayton to jct. of LA 128, north of LA 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of LA 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands in East Carroll, Tensas and Madison Parishes lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Evangeline: North and west of LA 115, north of LA 106 from St. Landry to LA 13, west of LA 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of LA 104 west of Mamou.

Iberville: West of LA 1.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of LA 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the jct. of LA 124, south of LA 124 to the jct. of LA 124 and LA 126, west of LA 126 to the jct. with LA 503, north of LA 503 to Summerville, west of LA 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of LA 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by LA 77 and LA 10, northward from U.S. 190 to LA 1 at Morganza, on the north and east by LA 1 to its jct. with LA 78 and by LA 78 from Parlang to U.S. 190.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, except: Sherburne WMA, Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands, Indian Bayou Tract, formerly St. Landry Land and Timber holdings - March 22-30, self-clearing permit required, one turkey per hunter bag limit. Also that portion of the parish bounded on the north by LA 10 from the West Atchafalaya Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its jct. with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way, then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and the West Atchafalaya Protection Levee to its jct. with LA 10.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve.

Area B

April 12-April 27

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of LA 2 from Texas line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from LA 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84 from U.S. 171 to the Texas line.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to LA 144, west of LA 144 to LA 34, west of LA 34 to Chatham, north of LA 146 from Chatham to LA 155, north of LA 155 to LA 542, north of LA 542 to Quitman, north of LA 155 to Bienville parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of LA 140 to jct. of LA 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of LA 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of LA 15 from Ouachita Parish line to LA 33 at Farmerville, north of LA 33 from Farmerville to Marion, north of LA 827 from Marion to Dean, north of Dean Church Road to Alabama Landing Road, north of Alabama Landing Road from Dean Church Road intersection to Ouachita River.

Area C

March 22-March 30

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east, and south by LA 451, on the west by the Big Bend levee from its jct. at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its jct. with LA 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. 65, south of U.S. 65 eastward to U.S. 15 (Ferriday), east of LA 15 northward to U.S. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. 65 northward from Concordia Parish line to LA 128, south of LA 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of LA 605, 604, 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1997 Wildlife Management Area Turkey Hunting Regulations

General

The following rules and regulations concerning the management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Consult the 1996-97 Hunting Regulations Pamphlet for more detailed rules and regulations governing the Wildlife Management Areas.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through June 1. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted).

Bag limits on WMAs are a part of your season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas shall be one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

Permits

Self-clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 1997. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any District office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements. Hunters on these areas must record their turkey at the appropriate stations prior to leaving the area.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1-P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055, Phone (318) 371-3050]; [District 2-368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203, Phone (318) 343-4044]; [District 3-1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360, Phone (318) 487-5885]; [District 4-P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334, Phone (318) 757-4571]; [District 5-1213 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, 70601, Phone (318) 491-2575]; [District 6-105 Avenue of the Acadians, Opelousas, 70571-0585, Phone (318) 948-0255]; or [District 7-P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898-9000, Phone (504) 765-2360].

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TURKEY HUNTING SCHEDULE*

WMA	Season Dates	Permit Requirements	Lottery Dates**
Bens Creek	March 22-April 13	Self-Clearing	None
Big Lake	March 22-March 30	Self-Clearing	None
Bodcau	April 12-April 27	Self-Clearing	None
Boeuf	March 22-March 30	Self-Clearing	None
Boise Vernon	March 22-April 13	Self-Clearing	None
Camp Beauregard	March 22-April 6	Self-Clearing	None
Dewey Wills	March 22-March 30	Self-Clearing	March 22-23 March 24-26
Fort Polk	March 22-April 22	Self-Clearing	None
Georgia-Pacific	April 12-April 20	Self-Clearing	April 12-13 April 14-16
Grassy Lake	March 22-March 30	Self-Clearing	None

Jackson-Bienville	April 12-April 27	Self-Clearing	None
Little River	March 22-April 6	Self-Clearing	None
Loggy Bayou	April 12-April 13 April 19-April 20	Self-Clearing	April 12-13 April 19-20
Pearl River	March 22-April 6	Self-Clearing	None
Peason Ridge	March 22-April 22	Self-Clearing	None
Pomme de Terre	March 22-March 30	Self-Clearing	None
Red River	March 22-March 30	Self-Clearing	None
Sandy Hollow	March 22-April 6	Self-Clearing	None
Sherburne	March 22-March 30	Self-Clearing	March 22-23 March 24-26
Sicily Island	March 22-March 23 March 29-March 30 April 5-April 6	Self-Clearing	March 22-23 March 29-30 April 5-6
Three Rivers	March 22-March 30	Self-Clearing	None
Tunica Hills	March 22-March 23 March 29-March 30 April 5-April 6	Self-Clearing	March 22-23 March 29-30 April 5-6

*Only those wildlife management areas listed shall have a turkey hunting season. All other areas are closed. The department manages additional lands that are included in the WMA system and available for public recreation. Contact the appropriate Wildlife and Fisheries District Office for specific information and any additional season dates.

**the deadline for receiving applications for all turkey lottery hunts on WMAs is January 31, 1997.

Volunteer Turkey Weigh and Check Stations

In an effort to better manage Louisiana's turkey population, volunteer weigh and check stations are located throughout the state at local sporting good stores, grocery stores and hunting clubs. Scales and data sheets are located at the stations for your convenience. Please have your turkey weighed and measured at one of these stations. By recording your turkey, you automatically are eligible for one of three shotguns to be given away in the early summer. An annotated list of turkey weigh stations is included in the regulations pamphlet.

CITATION: None-Changes Annually.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 22:

Public hearings will be held at regularly scheduled Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meetings from August through November. Additionally, interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until September 27, 1996 to Hugh A. Bateman, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife Division, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

Glynn Carver
Chairman

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RULE TITLE: Hunting of Turkeys for 1997

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

Establishment of hunting regulations is an annual process. The cost of implementing the proposed rules to the state, aside from staff time, is the production of the turkey regulation pamphlets and the turkey stamps estimated to cost \$6,500. The state agency currently has sufficient funds to implement the proposed action and no implementation costs or savings will be incurred by local governmental units resulting from the proposed rule.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

License revenues from the sale of the turkey stamps are estimated to be about \$34,000. Failure to adopt this rule would result in no turkey hunting seasons being established and loss of state revenues from sale of turkey stamps. In addition loss of tax revenues of an undeterminable amount may occur to both state and local governmental units from the sale of supplies and equipment used in the pursuit of turkeys.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

Approximately 6,000 residents and nonresident sportsmen and an undeterminable amount of sporting good distributors, retail outlets and landowners are directly affected by this proposal. Turkey hunters in Louisiana generate income to retail outlets, landowners and commercial operations that cater to the hunting public through hunting leases and the sale of outdoor related equipment and associated items (food, fuel, clothing, shotgun shells, etc.). These land and business owners will be negatively impacted if no hunting seasons, rules and regulations are established and promulgated. The actual amount of this impact is not estimable at this time. Both resident and nonresident turkey hunters will incur an additional cost of \$5.50 and \$10.50, respectively from the required purchase of a wild turkey stamp.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

Hunting supports approximately 9,370 full and part-time jobs in Louisiana of which a proportion is directly related to turkey hunting. Failure to establish turkey hunting seasons may have a negative impact on some of these jobs. It is also estimated that there will be little or no effect on competition in both the public and private sectors resulting from the proposed action.

Fredrick J. Prejean, Sr.
Undersecretary
9607#039

Richard W. England
Assistant to the
Legislative Fiscal Officer